



# ERIE COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ERIE COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
*Please refer to our internet address at: [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov)*

**A NON-REFUNDABLE \$20.00 PROCESSING FEE  
OR APPLICATION FEE WAIVER AND CERTIFICATION FORM MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION  
(CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY – PAYABLE TO: ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL)**

*See page 2 of this announcement for fee waiver information*

## **ASSISTANT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHEMIST**

**NO. 60-574**

**SALARIES VARY**

There is one vacancy in the Town of Amherst. The annual salary is \$53,103. The eligible list resulting from this examination will be used to fill this vacancy and other appropriate vacancies which may occur in municipalities or districts under the jurisdiction of Erie County Civil Service while this list is active.

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS:** CANDIDATES MUST HAVE BEEN LEGAL RESIDENTS OF ERIE COUNTY FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE WRITTEN TEST AND MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENTS OF ERIE COUNTY AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT. Preference in certification may be granted to candidates who have been a resident of the jurisdiction in which the appointment is to be made for one month preceding the date of the eligible list certification and who are residents of the jurisdiction at the time of appointment. Non-residents may be required to become a resident of the appointing municipality if local law so states.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet the following requirements on or before the date of the written test:

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, Bacteriology, Biology or related fields and two years experience in chemical and bacteriological laboratory testing.

**Notice to Candidates: Transcripts will now be accepted by the Department of Personnel ONLY at time of application.**

**All subsequent transcripts must be submitted at time of interview.**

**NOTES:** 1. Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements. 2. Your degree and/or college credit must have been awarded by a regionally accredited college or university or one recognized by the New York State Education Department as following acceptable educational practices. A grade of "D" or better is necessary for a course to be credited as successfully completed. If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. You can write to this Department for a list of acceptable companies providing this service; you must pay the required evaluation fee.

**DUTIES:** An Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemist performs specialized and complex chemical, bacteriological and physical tests and analysis of raw, partially treated and treated wastewater by-products to determine efficiency of plant processes and insures that plant effluent meets local, state and federal requirements; conducts and supervises less complex, routine tests; supervises collection of laboratory samples; when laboratory technicians are present, supervises technicians and provides routine procedures to be followed; evaluates and interprets test results; establishes test priorities and prepares reports; assembles data; maintains records and prepares periodic reports; provides direct or indirect instructions to operating personnel regarding chemical requirements and adjustments, changes or additions to various treatment processes; prepares and checks standard solutions and reagents; sets up laboratory equipment and performs various physical, chemical and microbiological analyses; prepares and maintains files of chemical reports; performs chemical and biological analysis of wastewater and industrial waste to establish effectiveness of treatment and the possibility to process revision and modification; sets up and/or standardizes operating procedures for plant operators in performing routine tests of treated material; prepares a variety of reports on the effectiveness of laboratory tests either routinely or upon the request of the State Health Department officials; investigates off premises complaints involving possible water pollution and effluent quality discharged by public or private agencies or parties.

A medical examination may be required before appointment.

**VETERANS: PROOF OF SERVICE MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE LIST IS ESTABLISHED  
TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL POINTS. (See application for more information.)**

**NOTICES TO APPEAR FOR THE EXAMINATION ARE MAILED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION DATE  
NO CELL PHONES ARE PERMITTED AT THE EXAM SITE.**

**EXAMINATION DATE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2010**

**SEE  
REVERSE  
SIDE**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE  
POSTMARKED BY  
JANUARY 20, 2010**

**SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION:** The written test is designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, INCLUDING TECHNIQUES, EQUIPMENT, AND PROCEDURES FOR INORGANIC AND ORGANIC ANALYSES:** These questions test for knowledge of general principles of chemical analysis, including the various techniques used in the chemical analysis of both organic and inorganic materials and the operating principles and characteristics of the analytical equipment used.
2. **PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS OF MICROBIOLOGY RELATED TO THE TESTING OF BOTH TREATED AND UNTREATED WATER:** These questions test for knowledge of microbiology as it relates to water testing, including such areas as sample preservation and preparation for microbiological analysis; methods, materials, and equipment used in the culture and identification of microorganisms, including microscopy; characteristics and effects of microorganisms; and general principles of microbiology and water treatment.
3. **LABORATORY METHODS, PROCEDURES, INSTRUMENTATION AND EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE INORGANIC ANALYSIS OF WATER, SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE:** These questions test for knowledge of the procedures, equipment, and instrumentation used in the analysis of water, sewage, and industrial waste for various inorganic and physical parameters, including such areas as sample preservation and preparation; preparation of solutions and standards; identification and characteristics of inorganic substances; and the use and characteristics of various test methods and instrumentation.
4. **LABORATORY METHODS, PROCEDURES, INSTRUMENTATION AND EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORGANIC ANALYSIS OF WATER, SEWAGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE:** These questions test for knowledge of the procedures, equipment, and instrumentation used in the analysis of water, sewage, and industrial waste for various organic parameters, including such areas as sample preservation and preparation; preparation of solutions and standards; identification and characteristics of organic compounds; and the use and characteristics of various test methods and instrumentation.
5. **GENERAL LABORATORY PRACTICES, TECHNIQUES, AND EQUIPMENT:** These questions test for knowledge of basic laboratory practices, techniques, and equipment, including such areas as proper and safe techniques in sample preparation and analysis; use and characteristics of laboratory supplies, equipment, and instrumentation; principles and practices of laboratory safety; preparation of solutions of various concentrations; and terminology and underlying scientific principles associated with laboratory work.
6. **UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETING TABULAR MATERIAL:** These questions test your ability to understand, analyze, and use the internal logic of data presented in tabular form. You may be asked to perform tasks such as completing tables, drawing conclusions from them, analyzing data trends or interrelationships, and revising or combining data sets. The concepts of rate, ratio, and proportion are tested. Mathematical operations are simple, and computational speed is not a major factor in the test.

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** Unless otherwise noted, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboards, "Spell Checkers", "Personal Digital Assistants", "Address Books", "Language Translators", "Dictionaries", or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES WHO ARE ALSO TAKING ANOTHER CIVIL SERVICE EXAM(S) ON THIS DATE (See Below)**  
**(IF YOU ARE TAKING 2 OR MORE ERIE COUNTY EXAMS ON THIS DATE IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CALL)**

**APPLICATION FORMS:** You may obtain these forms in person at the Erie County Personnel Department, Rath County Office Building, 95 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY. Forms are also available in the libraries and at Town, Village and School District administrative offices.

Mail your application form when completed to the Erie County Department of Personnel, 95 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202.

Candidates who submit incomplete applications and documentation may be disqualified. The Erie County Department of Personnel reserves the right to reject for lateness or to accept applications filed after the advertised filing period.

**MILITARY STATUS:** Active duty military personnel may file an application for this exam. A special military make-up examination will be conducted for any member of the armed forces of the United States who has duly filed a timely application but who was deprived of the opportunity to compete in the scheduled exam due to active military duty. Special conditions apply to these requests and may be reviewed at the Erie County Department of Personnel.

**VETERANS:** Disabled and non-disabled veterans as defined in Section 85, New York State Civil Service Law, will have 10 and 5 points, respectively added to their earned scores if successful in the examination. You must claim these credits when you file application but you have an option to waive them any time prior to appointment. If you have already used these credits for a permanent position in NYS, you may not claim them again.

In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, **CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY** shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

**APPLYING FOR EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS ON SAME DATE.** If you have applied for any other Civil Service exams for employment with New York State or any other local government jurisdiction, you must make arrangement to take all the exams at one test site.

If you have applied for both State and Local government exams, you must make arrangements to take all your exams at the State exam center by calling 1-877-NYS-JOBS (1-877-697-5627) no later than two weeks before the test date.

#### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

If you have applied for other local government exams, call or write each Civil Service Agency to make arrangements. You must make your request for these arrangements no later than three weeks before the date of the exams. You must notify all local government civil service agencies with whom you have filed an application of the location at which you wish to take your exam(s). For this exam call (716)858-7509 or write Erie Co. Personnel Dept., 95 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY 14202.

**ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION:** Notice to appear for the test will be conditional as review of application for minimum requirements may not be made until after the written test. Call or write this Department if you have not received your notice 3 days before the date of the test. You may not be admitted to the examination room without official notice.

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Applicants whose religious beliefs prevent their taking examinations before sundown on Saturday and physically handicapped candidates who require special examination facilities should so inform the Erie County Department of Personnel, by a separately mailed letter at the earliest possible date before the test.

**RATINGS REQUIRED:** Tests are rated on a scale of 100 with a passing mark at 70. Unless the announcement states otherwise, you must pass the written test and the oral test, if any. Test instructions may further divide the tests into parts and set minimum standards for each part.

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** If a subject of the examination, training and experience may not be rated if all passing candidates are expected to be immediately reachable for appointment. If rated, training and experience will be based on the statements in your application subject to verification. If this examination includes a qualifying written test, candidates admitted to the test will have conditional approval only. Final decision regarding the qualifications of candidates rests with the New York State Department of Civil Service.

**VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates may be investigated or called for an interview to verify information contained on the application.

Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience may be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION:** You may be required to take a medical examination to determine if you are medically and physically capable of performing the duties of the position.

In accordance with State Law, Governor's Executive Order 6, and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended the County of Erie does not discriminate against handicapped persons in access to employment, during employment, or in any of its programs and activities.

**ELIGIBLE LIST:** The eligible list resulting from an examination may also be used for appointment to the same title or to any other title deemed to be similar and appropriate. Eligible lists are active for a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years from the date established.

**Background Investigation:** Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification. Applicants may be required to pay a fee for the investigation.

**NOTE:** Fingerprints are sometimes required at the time of appointment. When they are required, the fee involved must be paid by the appointee.

**\*\*IMPORTANT APPLICATION FEE – READ CAREFULLY\*\***

A \$20.00 filing fee is required for this exam. The required fee must accompany your application. Send or bring check or money order made payable to Erie County Personnel Department and write the examination number(s) on your check or money order. Do not send or bring cash, as the County cannot be responsible for cash payment. As no refund will be made, you are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified.

**APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, or receiving Supplemental Security Income payments, or Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency.

All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete a "Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification: form and submit it with your application by the close of business on the Application Deadline as listed on the Examination Announcement. The form is available at the Erie County Personnel Department, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY (Room 604) or can be downloaded from the County's website at [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov). Click on "County Departments and Agencies", then "Erie County Civil Service".

This examination is prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service, and held in compliance with the New York State Civil Service Law and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Civil Service.